

Photos of NATO Secrets Linked to Bonn Admiral

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AP) — The federal prosecutor said today investigation has disclosed that the late Rear Adm. Herman Luedke may have photographed secret North Atlantic Treaty Organization documents for a foreign intelligence agency.

Prosecutor Ludwig Martin said that Luedke, who retired from a top NATO post only eight days before he died of a gunshot wound, had pictures of nine secret documents developed at a Bonn photo studio.

Martin said the studio informed Bonn authorities Sept. 23 about what was in the film and

Luedke was called in for questioning. Luedke said someone must have stolen his camera and taken the pictures, Martin said.

Martin said the explanation was possible, but that his office had not dismissed the possibility that Luedke was working for a foreign intelligence service at the time he was deputy chief of staff for logistics at NATO military headquarters near Casteau, Belgium.

Martin did not disclose what was in the documents or say what foreign intelligence agency Luedke might possibly have worked for. But Luedke's NATO work gave him access to plans for the movement of men and materiel in Europe in the event of war.

The 57-year-old admiral died of a gunshot wound Oct. 8 while ostensibly on a hunting trip in the Eifel Mountains, near the French border. The investigation of his death has not established if the gun accidentally discharged or if he killed himself.

Martin said the investigation had until now shown no connection between Luedke and two high-ranking West German army officers who committed suicide within 10 days of each other.

On the day Luedke died, the deputy chief of West Germany's intelligence agency shot himself in the head at his headquarters near Munich. He was Maj. Gen. Horst Wendland, 56, and his suicide was officially attributed to an "incurable depressive illness."

Last Friday, Lt. Col. Johannes Grimm, 54, of the West German Defense Ministry, shot himself at his office in the ministry. A Defense Ministry spokesman said Grimm's health had been "unstable for years."